

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 06:27:43 1994
From: ab4el@Cybernetics.NET (Stephen Modena)
Message-Id: <9412220847.AA09151@Cybernetics.NET>
Subject: 22 Dec Eastern Standard Time operating plan
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 03:47:55 -0500 (EST)

Hounds: Whether I hear you or not, do an exchange with any one else from the Inet group you hear. Don't worry about stepping on me. Make comments on my frequency to attract attention ...like "I'll be on n.nnn and calling" after you work the fox. :^) Working the FOX is for points; working Inetters is for fun.

So, again, here are the details:

SSB QRP FOX HUNT for THUR 22 DEC (North American Time)

FOX: Steve AB4EL ab4el@Cybernetics.NET in Raleigh, NC

MODE: lower SSB

POWER: QRP

SCHEDULE: Times are EASTERN STANDARD on THUR evening 22 DEC

EST TIME	BAND SEG	
-----	-----	
8:00--8:15 pm	3.750-3.760	requires EXTRA license
8:15--8:30 pm	3.780-3.788	requires ADVANCED license++
		(3.790-3.800 is DX window--NO RAGCHEW there)
8:30--8:45 pm	3.900-3.910	requires GENERAL license
		(early checkins for CC Net on 3.9035--be nice!
		Net starts at 9:00--welcomes QRPers to checkin)

<band hop period>

8:45--9:00 pm	7.160-7.165	requires GENERAL license
9:00--9:15 pm	7.210-7.220	requires ADVANCED or EXTRA
9:15--9:30 pm	7.160-7.165	
9:30--9:45 pm	7.210-7.220	
9:45-10:00 pm	7.160-7.165	

Why move so much? Because we don't know whom or what I will be competing with...how propagation will go. MAKE SURE THE CLOCK IN YOUR SHACK IS CHECKED AGAINST WWV!

Even if you can't transmit during a segment, listen and report back here to the qrp-l list! :^) Who did you hear? What did band conditions sound like where you are?

And please, call CQ a few times in addition searching for the FOX. Feel free to act as a spotter for others...if you can hear me, and hear others...let them know what frequency I'm on.

Don't worry about stepping on me...I can handle the situation.

I'd like to see a situation where we maximize the number of QSOs made between the hounds...besides succeeding in grabbing the FOX.

If you think I've made a mistake in typing this announcement, speak up. I'm my own worst editor. :^)

--

73/Steve/AB4EL ab4el@Cybernetics.NET in Raleigh, NC

Rev 1994.12.20/14.08Z

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 16:27:20 1994
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 10:09:16 -0800 (PST)
From: "Dale E. Goodman" <dxgoodm@snowwhite.bsrn2430.PacBell.COM>
Subject: <didn't bother with a subject>
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.90.941222100809.7013A-100000@snowwhite>

unsubscribe

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 02:12:52 1994
Message-Id: <ab1ea3020102100307b2@[129.74.35.16]>
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 1994 22:30:46 -0500
From: Steve.Hideg.1@nd.edu (Steve Hideg)
Subject: Re: A modest proposal for handling the "list volume" problem

I agree with Bill Meahan's suggestion of splitting the Fox Hunt crowd off.

I was just about to set up a filter to channel those messages into the bit bucket.

I vote "yes". When I do get back on the air, and perhaps start fox hunting, I'll subscribe to that list.

73 and happy holidays!

--Steve

Manufacturer Coupon. No expiration date.

Steve Hideg Macintosh Consultant/Analyst

Office of University Computing E-mail: Steve.Hideg.1@nd.edu
G034 Computing Center/Math Building Telephone: (219) 631-EXAM
University of Notre Dame Amateur Radio: N8HSC/9
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Cash value 1/100 cent.

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 06:08:23 1994
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 1994 23:48:48 -0800 (PST)
From: Stephen Lee <slee@u.washington.edu>
Subject: Re: ABout last night....
Message-Id: <Pine.A32.3.91c.941221230733.51702C-100000@homer10.u.washington.edu>

I got home from work just in time for the last half hour of the fox hunt last night. My NorCal 40 was assembled for the 40 meter novice segment so I set the Icom IC701 for 5 watts output, tuned to 7.040 and commenced to hunt Mr. Fox.

QRN at QTH Tacoma, WA also measured 5.0 on the S-scale so set the attenuator on then the noise blanker. On this rig, without the noise blanker I wouldn't hear those QRP signals at all. At about 5:45 UTC I picked out the Fox amongst the noise. His signal was weak...sometimes a peep and sometimes a wheeze. Just about ready to paddle out when another weak station, W9PWI, comes in right on top of Mr. Fox. Where did HE come from??? Fox got tangled up briefly in a pile-up right after that, I do believe. Heard some stations calling...quickly glanced at the crib sheet...nope, they're not there. K6QQ, KE6WT, and then...yes...K5F0...clear as a bell... I could not believe it!! Just a real quick CQ and you were gone, Chuck. I paddled out a few times but no response. Turned the rig on tonight wishing to turn back the clock a day, listening to the noise. Then I hear a call...AB50U...checked the crib sheet and there you were. Shoulda tried to work you but you were zipping along fine business.

Twas a fine thing you did, Sir Fox.
Stephen Lee

KC7AVB/aa

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 14:13:02 1994
From: weinfurtner@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 11:03:45 EST
Message-Id: <00989514.27D0CE60.14@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu>
Subject: Amazing new OLD rig!

Ohio University Electronic Communication

Date: 22-Dec-1994 10:59am EST

To: Remote Addressee (_MX%"qrp-1@netcom.com")

From: Gregory Weinfurtner Dept: Modern Languages
WEINFURTNER Tel No: 614-593-2747

Subject: Amazing new "old" rig!

QRP Gang,

Gotta relate a tale of the last few days...I "accidentally" found a "Novice and Technician" handbook. (circa 1956, Don W6TNS and Bill Orr W6SAI.) In it was a schematic for a 15 watt single tube transmitter using a 6AV5. Crystal controlled keyed oscillator and a simple circuit, it reminded me of my first rigs, 6DQ6 on 80m (and a NC-98 receiver. In 1973, I was WN8QEZ).

I had an ugly piece of maple here and a 6AQ5. The parts just seemed to leap out of my junk box, a transformer good for 210 vdc and 6.3vac for the filament, (remember that thing?), a 7.012 MHz crystal, 300pf variable cap, and assorted chokes and resistors. I replace the "pill bottle" tank with a t-80-2 toroid core (49 turns) and added a half wave filter at the output, just to be on the safe side concerning harmonics.

This little project went together in a matter of a few hours. Talk about a trip down memory lane! I just used brass-plated screws as tie-points, solder 'took' to them with no problem. Power supply is nothing more than a diode bridge and two 47 uf 250v caps, about the size of my thumb! After wiring up, the lil' rig will load up to 4.8 watts output at 7.012 MHz! (According to my 'silly'scope) Perfect for the QRP classification!

The note was very good! Not any trace of "whoop" or "chirp" or raw AC 60 cycle hum, so I knew that I wouldn't be mistaken for a Cuban station..hee hee!! It would even load up on 80 meters, using a 3.579545 MHz color burst crystal and a lot of the 300 pf cap.

I loaded up my 165 foot long wire with the tuner and watt meter said 6 watts, (probably reading reactive voltages...who knows?) The first QSO was with an EA7! He gave me a 539 and he was 569. (I was using my FT-101EE as a

receiver.). This little xmtr is a serious rig!

I'm on between 0000UTC and 0300UTC (7pm to 10pm local Eastern time), and will be listening for the I-netters so look for me on 7.012 during this Christmas and New Years season. PS: I did labeled it "Widow Maker" because of the open 210 vdc connections!! (I've insulated them, even tho local hams NJ8V and NC8V call it "sissy" to do such a thing...)

As I am composing this note, its Dec22 10:30am

Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year to all!

```
*****
*                               Greg Weinfurtner AEE BSS *
*      NN      N  SSSSSSS  8888888  0000000  Electronic Design Splst. *
*      N N      N  S      8      8  0      0  Ohio University Athens *
*      N N      N  SSSSSSS  8888888  0      0  GO BOBCATS! *
*      N  N      N      S  8      8  0      0 *
*      N      NN  SSSSSSS  8888888  0000000  "When in trouble, When in *
*                               doubt, Run in circles, *
*                               Amateur Radio..  Scream and shout." *
*****
```

Received: 22-Dec-1994 11:03am

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 01:58:25 1994
From: K7YHA@aol.com
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 1994 22:28:58 -0500
Message-Id: <941221222857_4310025@aol.com>
Subject: Century 22

I have recently procured a T-T Century-22. Outside of the dire need for a new front panel and case, it is in pretty decent shape. (Both are on order from T-T parts)

Does anyone have any mods or upgrades for this rig. Hints & Kinks has nothing, and T-T is pretty tight lipped. Anyone have an original manual that I can photocopy? If so, I'll pay postage both ways.

Does anybody out there have any information about replacing the diode ring mixer in the receiver of the C-22 with a SLB-1 or TUF-1? My rig suffers horribly from AM breakthrough. Beefing up the first mixer sure can't hurt.

72 rich

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 01:58:40 1994

From: K7YHA@aol.com
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 1994 22:17:58 -0500
Message-Id: <941221221716_4303246@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Clandestine operation

Well, if the stories I've heard are true, it was pretty lively, prop wise. Several accounts of hams on the East coast listening in on Rommel's tactical comm nets in the N. African desert made headlines. The folks in MI used this info to feed intel back to the Brit 8th army who was having more than their fair share of problems with the Desert Fox. If it weren't for the US intel efforts and the massive influx of US tanks into the Brit army, Rommel would have secured all of N. Africa and we'd be buying our oil from Germany.

Looking back historically on cycle 19 (which peaked in 1959) eleven years earlier the peak on cycle 18 should have been in 1948. Since the cycle rises quite rapidly, I would hazzard a guess that cycle 18 had just started in '42-'43, so there should have been some rather intense openings that would have coocided with the Rommel tank traffic intercepts that have been reported.

72 rich

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 02:22:40 1994
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 1994 21:27:54 -0700 (MST)
From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca>
Subject: Fox
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.941221212442.9156B-100000@ume>

Well, I was there looking, actually worked two LA stations (one qrp, one a homebrew 6146 tube rig).....no fox to be heard, or any of you other guys for that matter! (both stations using trap verticals, I was using an inverted vee up 60 feet favouring south/north

Dr. Rick Zabrodski BSc, MD, CCFP(E) * VE6GK
Email: zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca * NorCal 519 ARCI 7099 GQRP 8329
Phone 403-271-5123 Fax 403-225-1276 * "Power is no subsitute for skill"

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 02:44:41 1994
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: FOX article
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 94 23:17:09 EST5EDT
Message-Id: <1994Dec21.231709.24854@wb3ffv.ampr.org>

Still waiting for someone to step forward and volunteer to write an article about the FOX forthe QRP Quarterly...and you don't need to be a

subscriber/member of the QRP ARCI to write it, either. (If you don't get the QQ, I'll send you a copy when your article is in it.) If I can get my loop antenna back up before the cold weather sets in I'll even think about looking for the fox myself! 73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

--

Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org
E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org
The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 02:40:58 1994
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 1994 21:14:13 -0800
Message-Id: <199412220514.VAA05654@ix2.ix.netcom.com>
From: ka7uld@ix.netcom.com (Mark Cronenwett)
Subject: Fox Hunters Bagged at KA7ULD

Well Gang,

It was unusuall bad for me last night. The noise was running S5 to S9 at 7.120, and usually an S5 on 7.040. I also found I could not use my narrow filter, it just made it impossible to hear anything. I have had much better days, but have not ever worked that far on 40 from this location. It did show me that I can be heard a lot farther than I can hear. Pulling Steve (AB4EL) out of the mist was really tough, but he just happened to hit it right. I could tell that there was a pileup out there, but it was hard to tell through the noise. I know I missed a lot of people, so for next time I am going to try some of Steve's little hints. The reason I moved down to 7.117 was that a BC station opened up here all of a sudden, and I heard NOTHING...:)) Next time I will just stick my foot in my ear...:)) I am also very bad at contesting, so ymmv.

UTC Call Name QTH Sent Recvd.

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-----
0410 WB4OWL Charles CA 449 599
0425 AB5OU Tim NM 229 559
0429 NA5K Henry TX 349 559
0433 KC5EQC Don OK 229 449
0439 AB5WB Andy 349 459
0444 K06CL Rich CA 559 559

0521 AA7AR Bruce CA 459 599
0538 AB4EL Steve 219 559
0545 NA5K Henry TX 119 439 *Second Time---Worse!!
0558 K5UP Glen OK 129 339
-----
```

Gear Used: (if anyone cares...:))

TS-430S at 5 watts into an HF6V on the roof of my house (can I include the power lines in this as a handicap?). If anyone wants to come over to my house and see the setup, and provide helpful suggestions, you are very welcome, especially if it will improve the situation. Best send email responses to mcron@dogbone.csd.sgi.com. Any responses to my good footwork can also go to that address instead of the list....:))

Mark

--

```
=====
Mark Cronenwett, KA7ULD      OS: Linux, DOS, Unix
Sunnyvale, CA              Packet: ka7uld@n0ary
Operating QRP on CW, Pactor, Gtor, SSB
Ask me about the NorCal QRP Club
=====
```

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 03:42:53 1994
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 1994 22:08:41 -0700 (MST)
From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca>
Subject: Re: Fox?
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.941221220735.9156H-100000@ume>

it must be the high latitudes, definately not operating prowess!

```
*****
Dr. Rick Zabrodski BSc, MD, CCFP(E)      *                VE6GK
Email: zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca          * NorCal 519  ARCI 7099  GQRP 8329
Phone 403-271-5123 Fax 403-225-1276      * "Power is no subsitute for skill"
*****
```

On Wed, 21 Dec 1994, MR PRESTON J DOUGLAS wrote:

```
> -- [ From: Preston Douglas * EMC.Ver #2.10P ] --
>
> Fox? I don't hear any fox.
> (Two weeks in a row)
> (And you can't work 'em if you can't hear 'em.)
> WJ2V, Long Island (until NN1G built, listening with Yaesu 757 cranked
> down to 5w - as if I had anything to transmit to!)
>
>
```

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 04:08:38 1994
From: CamQRP@aol.com
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 00:48:58 -0500

Message-Id: <941222004852_4437140@aol.com>

Subject: Homebrew Points

Happy Holidays, Gang -

I finally got my hands on an Explorer manual so I could check it out re: "Homebrew" status. I had received a copy of the Classic manual, and it is pretty much step-by-step, except when it comes to the spots where it instructs the builder to "Install all of the resistors" or "Install all of the inductors." This is similar to the Sierra manual, which I had earlier deemed to be "Homebrew" because it does require the builder to at least be able to tell the difference between an R and an L, and also to have slightly more than a passing familiarity with the resistor color code. Assuming that the Explorer manual was similar to the Classic manual, I proceeded to write a long essay on which I thought was homebrew and why.

The Explorer manual arrived, and the essay went into the little trash can at the lower righthand corner of my screen.

This one pretty much matches Heathkit standards, step-for-step. When it comes time to insert resistors, the builder is offered a chart of resistor designations, their locations, and their appropriate color codes. Although not advertised as a beginner's kit, it probably has the best manual (of any I've seen recently) for a beginning builder to tackle.

The funny thing is, I don't feel like tossing this one out of the "Homebrew" category. There are a couple things wrong here. One is that I don't want people making their buying decisions based on whether or not something qualifies for bonus points. Another is that a buying decision made on this basis would in effect be punishing a kit manufacturer who is trying hard to improve his product. Yet another is that I think we should be supporting the concept of "building", and supporting the newer, less technically sophisticated hams who would do well to buy something like the Explorer, with which they would stand a fighting chance of getting it going and enjoying it on the air.

I think it's time to take a look at the rule in light of the changing landscape in QRP homebrewing and kitbuilding. Things are very different from what they were just a few years ago - the players have all changed, as have the parts (as in chips, etc.) If you have input, comments, ideas, or criticism (helpful) send your cards, letters and e-mail this way. As Bob Gobrnick suggested, it might be better to send them directly to me, rather than gum up the qrp-l, but regardless of method, I'll collect the ideas and try to divine a group consensus.

And is it really "ludicrous" and "somewhat of a joke" (as was suggested hereabouts recently) to even worry about such a puny thing as 5000 bonus points? Take a look at the results of the 94 Summer Homebrew Sprint. The

median score was about 6200 points, of which 5000 were bonus points. The top score belonged to KN5S, about 47,000 points. He ran a 6-band HB transceiver, thus 30,000 of his points were bonus points. Ludicrous? I think not.

Send your thoughts.

Tnx es 72/73 de Cam N6GA, QRP ARCI Contest Manager

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 10:30:41 1994

Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 06:56:15 -0500

From: tan@nccmail.attmail.com (Timothy A Nibbe)

Subject: Re: Homebrew Points

Message-Id: <winATT-2.5.1-tan-114>

Hi,

If I am committing a faux pas by responding to the message from Cam N6GA, QRP ARCI Contest Manager in this manner, I am new at using this type of mailing list. I use corporate e-mail constantly, but this is new.

I am interested in QRP but am currently only a Tech-Lite. But I have built a great many projects, many were typical "homebrew", many were kits (I have a whole box of red Heathkit nut starters). I have also observed that the vast majority of amateurs that I have talked to would not even consider building anything electronic, even with a Heathkit-like kit. I admit that there are some pieces of equipment that I would prefer to buy preassembled, one example is a hand held transceiver (I have a hard time even SEEING some of the components in my 2m HT).

Due to the current state of electronic parts pricing and availability, tracking down some of the parts required to build a reasonably advanced receiver or transmitter can be an exercise in futility (unless you want to buy at least 50 each of certain parts). Most solid state projects require an etched PC board. Some projects require a programmed EPROM and most hams do not have reasonable access to an EPROM burner.

Many of the magazine construction articles now list a source of PC boards, hard to find parts, partial kits, and complete kits. If somebody builds a transmitter and receiver from a magazine article, buying an etched board and scrounging the rest of the parts, would this be considered a homebrew? Would it also be a homebrew if he had bought the complete kit? What if the bare board or kit includes a Heathkit-like construction manual?

If the term "homebrew" is defined by whether or not it is assembled from scratch, or from a kit, or from the quality of the kit, there will be some very difficult grey areas. May I suggest that the term "homebrew" be defined more by what had to be done to assemble the project, not by the level of instruction required. I believe that if the real reason of homebrew bonus

points is to improve technical expertise, that the actual building of a project is more important than the level of instruction supplied by the kit building manual.

Tim Nibbe
KD4YFN
tan@nccmail.attmail.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 11:04:09 1994
From: JSPEER@sfasu.edu
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 07:07:22 -0600 (CST)
Subject: Re: Homebrew Points
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9412220617.C239804-0100000@TITAN.SFASU.EDU>

On Thu, 22 Dec 1994 CamQRP@aol.com wrote:

> Happy Holidays, Gang -
>
> I finally got my hands on an Explorer manual so I could check it out re:
> "Homebrew" status. I had received a copy of the Classic manual, and it is
> pretty much step-by-step, except when it comes to the spots where it
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> the inductors." This is similar to the Sierra manual, which I had earlier
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> time to insert resistors, the builder is offered a chart of resistor
> designations, their locations, and their appropriate color codes. Although
> not advertised as a beginner's kit, it probably has the best manual (of any
> I've seen recently) for a beginning builder to tackle.
>
> The funny thing is, I don't feel like tossing this one out of the "Homebrew"
> category. There are a couple things wrong here. One is that I don't want
> people making their buying decisions based on whether or not something
> qualifies for bonus points. Another is that a buying decision made on this
> basis would in effect be punishing a kit manufacturer who is trying hard to
> improve his product. Yet another is that I think we should be supporting the
> concept of "building", and supporting the newer, less technically

> sophisticated hams who would do well to buy something like the Explorer, with
> which they would stand a fighting chance of getting it going and enjoying it
> on the air.

These are compelling arguments. I agree.

>

> I think it's time to take a look at the rule in light of the changing
> landscape in QRP homebrewing and kitbuilding. Things are very different from
> what they were just a few years ago - the players have all changed, as have
> the parts (as in chips, etc.) If you have input, comments, ideas, or
> criticism (helpful) send your cards, letters and e-mail this way. As Bob
> Gobrick suggested, it might be better to send them directly to me, rather
> than gum up the qrp-l, but regardless of method, I'll collect the ideas and
> try to divine a group consensus.

>

You make good points, but I still also think that the individual who etched his own board, scrounged his own parts, and debugged the final product did something more exceptional than the individual who followed step-by-step instructions and at the end had a commercial product that worked the first time he turned it on (and I speak as someone whose entire shack was furnished with Heath gear for many years.) How about two categories:

1. ANY kit, where kit is defined by the presence of a commercially produced circuit board.

2. HOMEBREW, which means you made your own board, as well as everything else.

KIT = 2500 points per band

HOMEBREW = 5000 points per band

> And is it really "ludicrous" and "somewhat of a joke" (as was suggested
> hereabouts recently) to even worry about such a puny thing as 5000 bonus
> points? Take a look at the results of the 94 Summer Homebrew Sprint. The
> median score was about 6200 points, of which 5000 were bonus points. The top
> score belonged to KN5S, about 47,000 points. He ran a 6-band HB transceiver,
> thus 30,000 of his points were bonus points. Ludicrous? I think not.

You're right. After I corrected my input power, it turns out that homebrew points would have about tripled my score.

>

> Send your thoughts.

>

> Tnx es 72/73 de Cam N6GA, QRP ARCI Contest Manager

>

thanks, Cam

--

If RST > 519

Then cut_power;

ARRL

G-QRP 8390

Jim Speer, K5YUT

jspeer@sfasu.edu

ARCI 8513

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 15:01:27 1994
From: N5EM@aol.com
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 11:43:26 -0500
Message-Id: <941222114325_4683169@aol.com>
Subject: Homebrewing

Tim,

Thanks for your thoughts on homebrewing. Yours are very typical, especially of newcomers who look into modern gear and break out into a cold sweat at the thought of trying to build something like that. Well, you probably guessed that none of us tackle anything so complex.

One of the joys of building is that we can assemble a piece of gear that is exactly what we want for a particular aspect of the hobby. Here, that aspect is QRP and most of the equipment of interest to the QRPer is low powered and, often, simple and small.

The concept of "homebrew" is undergoing a great degree of soul-searching at the present time, mainly because of the interest in contesting. But consider a couple of points.

First, there are many starter kits that provide an entry into the homebrew arena. I don't believe anyone could seriously question whether any kit is really homebrew. Fact is, it really doesn't matter what anyone else thinks.

Building a kit, getting it running (which may include finding someone to help you and making a new friend), putting it on the air and, finally, communicating with distant hams is, in itself, reward enough. If you also get into contesting with your new creation, even better.

Additionally, there are more advanced kits after you gain some experience building. But don't try to start there. There are few things any more frustrating than dropping a couple hundred bucks on a large box of parts that takes several weeks of your life and never amounts to more than a large box of parts. Any QRPer can tell you of the countless HW7,8,9's purchased at hamfests for \$50 that never worked for the original owner/builder. And the sad thing is that most of them could have found someone to help them get it running if they had only known where to look. - You have found a source of information!

Find someone near you, if possible who is also interested in ham radio and building, hopefully even in QRP. Then pick something that looks managable - perhaps the NN1G 40-40 recently described in QST magazine. The total cost is about \$50. That gives you a 40 meter transceiver for CW that can be originally put in the novice band and later moved into the general portion after you upgrade. It can be hauled around in a suitcase or a backpack. You

can run if from batteries or a very small power supply. And you won't be broke when you get it working. Notice that the 40-40 was originally a CLUB project where a bunch of interested QRPers got together and built their rigs together, helping each other. Social benefits, notwithstanding, this really gets you past the terror of lighting up the soldering iron for the first time.

Who knows, you may get so much enjoyment from building that you start working up your own designs from the works or others. No need to wait for someone to do a design thats just right. Also, unless you get into DSP or digital work you'll never need an Eprom!

As to parts, they are where you find them. You can buy just about anything you need without having to buy 50 of them. There is absolutely nothing wrong with purchasing a kit where someone has done the parts collecting for you.

Not to mention that they got them cheaper by buying them in quantity. But do n't forget the consumer electronic junk. Don't hesitate to take a couple of dead radios, tvs and vcrs apart for the bounty of parts inside. Just figuring out what is in there is educational. (Watch out for picture tubes, though. They are dangerous!) Check out the hamfests and flea markets. Take your parts list for what you want to build and search for what you need. You will be amazed at how inexpensively you can find a wealth of parts if you know what you are looking for and buy only what you need. Later, after you gain a feel for commonly used parts, you can stock up on bargains. If you never use it again, though, its not a bargain.

If you really want to get exposure to home brewing, come to Dayton for the Hamvention. (Last weekend of April). We have a mini-convention for QRPers that attracts the best of the best from all over the world. No one can resist bring their latest homebrew creation to show off. You'll see some really interesting stuff and some really fine craftsmanship, not to mention meeting some of the nicest people in the amateur radio fraternity (yes, I plan to be there!).

72 from Houston, Texas
Ed/N5EM

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 18:11:44 1994
Message-Id: <9412221657.AA27054@ig1.att.att.com>
From: mvjif@mvubr.att.com (James M Fitton +1 508 960 2577)
Date: 22 Dec 94 16:58:00 GMT
Subject: Re: Merry Christmas

To Rich High, WOHEP....Colorado QRP Club.
and all QRPers.....

Thank you, and Merry Christmas to you.

Dont forget G-QRP Wintersports.
It runs from Christmas day until New Years Eve.

Look for Chris Page, G4BUE operating as GB0QRP,
and look for milliwatter, GB0VLP (Very Low Power).

72 and 73

>From Jim, W1FMR and the QRP Club of New England

QRP-NE....

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
May 1995 bring you even more than you
ever dreamed in your QRP pursuits.

72 from me and the other officers and members of the Colorado QRP Club,

Rich High, W0HEP

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 01:56:55 1994
From: K7YHA@aol.com
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 1994 22:21:39 -0500
Message-Id: <941221222138_4306812@aol.com>
Subject: Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Here's wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
1995 is going to be a banner year for QRP operation. Go forth and QSO!

72 rich

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 14:11:01 1994
From: ARDAI@MAVEN.dnet.teradyne.com
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 11:43:56 -0500 (EST)
Subject: More on the homebrew question
Message-Id: <01HKXYFKGQIA006CN9@A1GATE.TERADYNE.COM>

I think this came from JSPEER@sfasu.edu, but I might have gotten the
attribution wrong...

I think this is getting a bit ridiculous - aren't we trying to encourage

both qrp operation and *actually building something*? OK, maybe we should have 'designed your own radio' and 'built your own radio' as the two categories, but what about designing a radio by borrowing bits of the circuit from published designs?

>You make good points, but I still also think that the individual who
>etched his own board, scrounged his own parts, and debugged the final
>product did something more exceptional than the individual who followed
>step-by-step instructions [....] How about two categories:

>

> 1. ANY kit, where kit is defined by the presence of a
>commercially produced circuit board.

> 2. HOMEBREW, which means you made your own board, as well as
>everything else.

I guess this will make my 20M sideband rig (Zack Lau's from the 95 handbook) not homebrew, since I am building it on a commercially produced 'generic PCB' board with many uncommitted pads. I certainly would call it homebrew. Since I don't have the facilities to etch my own board, I would definitely buy one if it is available, even if I am only using it as a starting point (like WB2CPU's DDS-controlled 160-40). So is my 40-40 'homebrew'? I got the board from FAR, ordered all of the parts from 6 different vendors, bagged the 20 kits I was producing, and stuffed the board from the PCB X-ray view and parts list. A bit of metal work later, and I had a box for it. I then tuned it up with a scope and an MFG antenna analyzer as a sig gen - not the way described in the manual. Why is that any less homebrew than a crystal and a 74LS04 on a Radio Shack IC bus board? or on good old perfboard? or stuck through a shirt cardboard?

I feel that if you did any more soldering than connectors/controls (other than repairing an existing radio), it should count as homebrew.

Just my opinion.

73 and Happy Holidays,
/mike
n1list@netcom.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 14:03:07 1994
From: RobCap@aol.com
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 10:16:02 -0500
Message-Id: <941222100024_4624365@aol.com>
Subject: Need help with 40-30

I have built the New England QRP Club's 40-30 (30 meter version of the

40-40), and need help troubleshooting.

Quite a bit is working. The transmitter is working perfectly. It peaks up nicely and is putting out 1.5 W. VFO is also working, and is right in the 30 meter band. Key voltages appear O.K. Vr is 8.00 volts, and the audio pot goes from 0 to 5 V.

The problem is I can't get the receiver working yet. All I hear is a high pitched whine through the headphones. The whine does not change with either audio pot adjustment or by adjusting C1. The mute switch (QSK) appears to be working. When the key is down, the whine turns off and the rig transmits. When I let up on the key, I get the whine.

There is no sidetone. So when the key is down, there is no audio in the headphones (and I'm not sure whether or not the rig has a sidetone, so don't know if this is normal).

Touching the 10K resistor off of U4 with a screwdriver does not produce appropriate hum. Nor does touching the 470 ohm resistor.

Have checked the rig carefully for part placement and solder bridges.

Does anyone have any ideas of where to begin looking for the solution to get the receiver working?

Otherwise a very enjoyable kit. Board only with on-board parts. Went together (case and all) in two evenings. Very nice board.

Please address response to: RobCap@AOL.com

Thanks,

Rob, WA3ULH

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 17:37:41 1994
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 11:45:37 -0700 (MST)
From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca>
Subject: norcal sierra circuit question
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.941222102240.11642D-100000@ume>

putting it together over the holidays
got 5 extra capacitors but one missing rf choke.....a 15 uh (L2).....I
have a 18 uh part.....is this close enough? (I suspect it is but some
reassurance would be nice)

Also, in dec QRPP wayne mentions an addendum.....I did not receive any
addendum with manual.....anybody who knows what was in it?

Dr. Rick Zabrodski BSc, MD, CCFP(E) * VE6GK
Email: zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca * NorCal 519 ARCI 7099 GQRP 8329
Phone 403-271-5123 Fax 403-225-1276 * "Power is no substitute for skill"

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 04:19:19 1994
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 1994 21:55:44 -0800 (PST)
From: Stephen Lee <slee@u.washington.edu>
Subject: Re: QRP INFO
Message-Id: <Pine.A32.3.91c.941221194531.51484A-100000@homer10.u.washington.edu>

On Wed, 21 Dec 1994 Byron8LCZ@aol.com wrote:

- > RG-174 coax:
- > Did you realize that RG-174 has 72 % losses (5.5 db) in 100 ft of coax.

My spec sheet shows 3.3 db loss per 100 feet at 10 MHz, 1.9db loss per 100 feet at 1 MHz. I consider that manageable.

- >If your transmitter puts out 5 watts of RF, only 1.4 watts will reach
- >the antenna.

My NorCal 40 puts out 2.5 watts of RF. Figure a 30 foot feedline then the attenuation is approximately 1 db. The formula for effective radiated power is: $(\text{db loss}) = 10 \times \log(\text{Xmitter Power Out} / \text{Effective Radiated Power})$.

so $1\text{db} = 10 \times \log(2.5/\text{ERP})$, then $.1\text{db} = \log(2.5/\text{ERP})$

since the antilog of .1 is 1.26, then $1.26 = 2.5/\text{ERP}$

$\text{ERP} = 2.5/1.26 = 1.99 \text{ watts}$

I consider a half watt loss in the feed line to be negligible.

- > you run 33 ft of coax, you're still losing an awful lot of RF. The
 - > difference between RG-174 and RG-8X isn't much in weight or size,
 - > (unless you're climbing Mt Everest) but the losses are very large.
- <swr text deleted>

Yes, I do enjoy climbing mountains and QRP'ing off high peaks is exactly what I have in mind. Been up in the Cascades of Washington state several times this fall reaching elevations of 8,000 feet. What with the cold,

the snow, and rarified ether, it's tough to hang a skinny wire dipole. My plan is to use 30 feet of RG-174 as feedline then make a dipole using RG-174's braided shield as the dipole elements.

> Ever measured the power actually reaching your antenna ?

Will do that during our next field day event.

> QRP doesn't mean low efficiency it means "low power".

Absolutely Correct!!!!

In summary, Byron, I concur with what Alan Kaul, W6RCL writes about RG-174. It has its niche in the HF arena.

73's & stay tuned,
Stephen Lee
KC7AVB/aa

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 21:28:41 1994
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 94 14:02:17 MST
Message-Id: <9412222102.AA24350@rgfn.epcc.Edu>
From: ab253@rgfn.epcc.Edu (Andrew Hair)
Subject: QRP Mini-Expedition!

To all:

This isn't something of "earth shattering" proportions, but a friend and I are going to make another trip into the Franklin Mountains on December 26 (Monday) to try our luck at 20m QRP. We do this every few weeks, mostly out of curiosity, but certainly for the fun of it. The Franklin Mountains bisect the city of El Paso, Texas and represent the very tail end of the Rocky Mountains. We pick peaks that are off the beaten path and require some climbing skills to access. Monday's outing is to a relatively small peak at 6,000 feet. Since there are no support structures for dipole antennas, we have constructed a self-supporting mast out of PVC that weighs about 10 pounds and fits into a backpack. The rig is an MFJ 9020 (haven't gotten up the courage to build one yet) with a lead-acid battery and a solar panel for extra measure.

We intend to operate on or near 14.060 from approximately 10:00-14:00 MST or 17:00-21:00 UTC. Times may vary depending on how difficult the weather

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 20:41:27 1994
From: ARDAI@MAVEN.dnet.teradyne.com
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 15:38:24 -0500 (EST)
Subject: Reminder about unsubscribing
Message-Id: <01HKY6FX3I02005XR0@A1GATE.TERADYNE.COM>

Please keep this for further use...

DO NOT! send subscribe or unsubscribe messages to a mailing list (such as qrp-l). The 460 subscribers (from 22 countries) really don't want to see that request, and until I see it (which may take a day or so), nothing will happen. To subscribe or unsubscribe, send mail to the automated listserv manager at listserv@netcom.com with the body (not subject)

unsubscribe qrp-l

(or subscribe qrp-l, if you want to get on the list). If it doesn't work, then send me personal mail at nlist@netcom.com and I will look into it. Also, mail already on the way to you can't be stopped, so you still may get a few articles after unsubscribing.

Thanks very much for following these simple instructions.

73,

/mike

nlist@netcom.com

Maintainer, BARC lists

Happy Holidays and may all find that nice rig under the tree :-)

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 04:05:23 1994
From: CamQRP@aol.com
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 00:52:04 -0500
Message-Id: <941222005201_4436696@aol.com>
Subject: Sideband Sprint

1995 QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint

Please Note - New Date, New Time, New Format

Date: January 15, 1995

Time: Noon to 8 PM, Local Time

Operate: Any 4 hours of the 8 hour period. Please mark on and off times on your log.

The date and time are changed from the rules previously published in the

Quarterly and other mags. The new date avoids a conflict with another QRP operating event (Michigan) and the new time and format will give people both day and night operating conditions so as to be able to use more bands, including 80 M. Also note the following changes in the suggested operating frequencies: on 80, use 3865 KHz, 15 KHz up from the bottom of the General Class phone band, and for 6 Meter buffs, gather just above the calling frequency of 50.125.

Sorry for the late changes, but we think this will make for a more interesting contest. Full rules appeared in the October QQ and December QST. These changes supercede those rules. Please pass along the information to any interested parties who might not be on Internet.

Thanks and Happy Holidays
Cam N6GA
QRP ARCI Contests

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 06:12:51 1994
Subject: suggestions for shorter list
Date: Wed, 21 Dec 1994 22:40:33 -0800
From: Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG <turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU>
Message-Id: <9412212240.aa02872@paris.ics.uci.edu>

Quick suggestions to shorten the traffic, in addition to some already suggested.

Please ... edit replies to the list:

Do NOT include the list as a "cc:" unless you really want to.

Do NOT include the old message with a new one you are sending to the list - unless you edit it down to a key idea or two. I have often seen a message 3 or 4 times since many of us just keep including them! No need to do that.

DO send private email when possible and not of general interest.

AND, I sure do love this group :-). Let's keep it nice and neat :-).

72

Clark, WA3JPG, saving sig space.

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 14:04:41 1994
From: N5EM@aol.com
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 11:05:39 -0500
Message-Id: <941222110537_4663962@aol.com>
Subject: Unsubscribe (for the holidays)

unsubscribe qrp-l

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 18:05:38 1994
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 1994 11:43:04 -0800 (PST)
From: "Dale E. Goodman" <dxgoodm@snowwhite.bsrn2430.PacBell.COM>
Subject: unsubscribe
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.90.941222114203.8320B-100000@snowwhite>

unsubscribe qrp-l

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 08:29:51 1994
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 94 05:45:25 -0600
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Message-Id: <9412221145.AA04887@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>
Subject: Re: what is the fox hunt everybody is talking about ?

Jerry,

Anybody can jump in. The fox will do your code speed. Hopefully when he/she calls CQ you will be able to copy their call. There is no class restriction other than you work in freqs allowed by your license. That is why we usually have two time ranges where part is spent in the Novice bands.

We all remember when we were Novices and we surely don't want to leave anybody out.

Remember gang the QRP ARCI calling freqs are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We don't own them, but they are a good starting place. In fact, if for example 7.040MHz is in use, then move up or down to the next clear spot and call CQ QRP. If the band is open, then most likely someone will call you even someone operating QRO. If the band seems to be dead, e.g. 15 and 10M, then it wouldn't hurt anything to call a short CQ just to see if everyone else is listening and nobody is transmitting.

dit dit

Tonight is the SSB night, see previous postings about that complex schedule.

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Thu Dec 22 12:48:25 1994
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 94 08:25:58 CST

From: msdooley@collie.aud.alcatel.com (Michael S. Dooley)
Message-Id: <9412221425.AA00230@collie.aud.alcatel.com>
Subject: Re: what is the fox hunt everybody is talking about ?

> question says it all.
> It sounded fun.

It IS fun!

> can a person doing 13wpm only join in ?

I only do about 10wpm (been awhile and I'm rusty) P-)...

> or is the fox hunt only for EXTRA class that can do >20wpm ?

We have the hunt (usually) in both the Novice and non-novice portions of the band. The only time this wasn't true was when the Fox was a Tech+ and was limited to the novice segment only.

>
> jerry N3RKD
>
>

C'mon down, jerry, give it a try!

Mike KE4PC